News Review of Current Events the World Over

Southerners Launch Talmadge's Presidential Boom—Kansas Offers Landon to Republicans—Bonus Bill Passed Over Roosevelt's Veto.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

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TWO THOUSAND or more "grass roots" Democrats, representing 17 southern and border states—though most of them were Georgians—assembled in Macon, Ga., and with wild yells launched the boom of Gov. Eugene Talmadge for the Democratic Presidential nomination. They adopted a motion asking him to run as a constitutional Democrat who is opposing what they called the "theorists, crackpots, brain trusters and professors" of the New Deal. Talmadge, though highly elated, declined to commit or to make any announcement at the time.

The meeting was adopted by the meeting called for preservation of the Constitution, of state sovereignty and of the American form of government. It accused President Roosevelt of abandoning faith in the Constitution and the doctrines of Thomas Jefferson and of "repudiating, abandoning, and sidetracking" the platform on which he was elected in 1932. It said:

"We do not regard the occupant of the White House as a Democrat.

"He has broken the pledge of our party and violated its platform of 1932.

"We here today affirm our faith in that doctrine."

It is not easy yet to estimate the possible results of the Talmadge movement. The administration leaders refuse to take the Georgia governor seriously or to admit that he can imperil their control of any of the southern states.

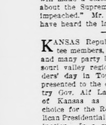
The situation in the South is further complicated by the sudden death of Gov. O. K. Allen of Louisiana. He was the devoted and complaisant adherent of Huey Long and had been selected to fill out the unexpired term of the late senator. Lieutenant Governor Noe succeeded to the governorship, but who will now be the leader of the Long forces was not immediately determined.

WHAT is known as the Bankhead-Jones bill for soil conservation, the administration's substitute for the A.A.A. was given the hesitant approval of the senate agricultural committee by a vote of 15 to 2, although Chairman Ellison D. Smith of South Carolina said he was personally had some doubts as to its constitutionality. The measure would enable the secretary of agriculture to remove 25,000,000 acres from cultivation and give him even wider powers than he had under the A.A.A. It was evidently headed for a hot debate on the senate floor.

Secretary Wallace let it be known that officials of the Agriculture, Treasury and Justice departments were cooperating in an effort to collect for the government the $200,000,000 ordered returned to processors by the Supreme court, but he gave no details of the plan. In conference in the court order in a radio talk, Mr. Wallace went farther in criticism of the Supreme court than he has ever before in the Roosevelt administration. He declared it was "the most grievous legalized steal in history." Representative Allen T. Treadway of Massachusetts asserted on the floor of the house that "any official who will make a statement of that nature about the Supreme court ought to be impeached." Mr. Wallace may not have heard the last of this.

KANSAS Republican state committee quadrennial, the Kansas Day club and many party leaders from the Missouri valley region, celebrating Founders' day in Topeka, presented to the country Alf. Landon of Kansas as their choice for the Republican Presidential nomination. In a speech to the banqueters the governor told what he hoped to do for the nation if he were nominated and elected. Refraining from "soliciting epithets for argumenta," he offered a program for ending federal extravagance and restoring prosperity.

Gov. Talmadge


Gov. Landon

Replying to the query "What would you do?" Mr. Landon proposed relief for agriculture through a soil conservation program with the honest purpose of saving the fertility of American farms and not merely that of providing a blind for further dispensation of AAA checks.

The governor pledged himself to old age pensions. He recommended extension and improvement of civil service and the utilization by the federal government of specially trained minds as he has used them in Kansas—"to collect facts, not to administer theories."

His own best recommendation of himself he gave in three succinct paragraphs summarizing his budget balancing achievements.

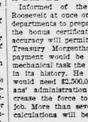
PAYMENT of the veterans' bonus by means of baby bonds payable on demand was enacted, into law by congress, and the money for the ex-soldiers may be available on July 1. The Harrison compromise bonus bill that went through the senate and house easily, was vetoed by President Roosevelt. The house immediately and enthusiastically repassed the measure. The senate was a little more deliberate, but within three days it, too, had overridden the disapproval of the Chief Executive, and the bill was made law. The vote in the senate was 76 to 19. In the house it had been 324 to 61.

It was a notable fact that all the senators—96 in number, for Huey Long's successor has not yet taken his seat—were present and voting. Notable, but not surprising when one remembers this is an election year. Fifty-seven Democrats, 16 Republicans and 3 Farmer-Labor—La Follette of Wisconsin, Shipstead and Benson of Minnesota—voted for the bill, while 12 Democrats and 2 Republicans voted against it.

The galleries were filled and there was a deadly silence when the vote was announced. Republican senators seemed to be overwhelmed with sadness by voting the Democrats on their failures to stand by their chief, the most suitable of the doctrines being Senator Hastings of Delaware.

Informed of the vote, President Roosevelt at once ordered government departments to prepare for payment of the bonus certificates as quickly as accuracy will permit. Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau said the first payment would be the most difficult mechanical task the treasury had faced in its history. He said the treasury would need $2,500,000 and the veterans' administration $2,000,000 to increase the force to take care of the job. More than seven million interest calculations will be necessary.

"WE CAN either take on the mantle of hypocrisy, or we can take a walk; and we'll probably do the latter."


Al Smith

These words of Alfred E. Smith in his speech at the American Liberty league dinner in Washington were perhaps the most significant and arresting part of his utterances on that occasion, for as professed to be speaking for "the dinner, the league, Jackson and Cleveland and Jefferson and Lincoln" they were not concerning their attitude in the Democratic national convention next June when the delegates are asked to indorse the doings of the Roosevelt administration. There could be no misunderstanding Smith's meaning, and he must now be considered the leader of the conservative Democrats in their revolt against the policies of the New Dealers. The concern of the administration Democrats is now as to how extensive will be the bolt; and whether the conservatives will try their own ticket, and support the Republican nominee or merely stay away from the polls. Of course in any case the Republican cause will be aided materially, unless the genesis of its leaders are all wrong.

New Deal Democrats were quite unprepared by the Smith speech, for they declared was weak and ineffective. Jouett Shouse, the Democratic Leader Joseph T. Robinson of the senate would deliver the official reply in a radio address.

Mr. Smith in his Liberty league speech said especially notable about President Roosevelt but he specifically put on that gentleman the full blame for repudiation of most of the planks in the Democratic platform of 1932, which he declared was what he put forth in this country.

Senator Robinson's reply to Al Smith's speech consisted in the main of quotations from previous utterances by Smith in which he advocated a course quite as radical as that pursued by the New Dealers in combating the depression. He jeered at the New Yorker for abandoning the streets of the west side for the palaces of Park avenue and trading his brown derby for a silk topper, and denounced him as a deserter in the face of the enemy.

ACTIVITIES of the Townsend old age pension advocates are proving most annoying to many congressmen, and it is likely they will be investigated, a resolution for such an inquiry was introduced by Representative Jasper Bell of Missouri, Democrat. It charged that for several years "individuals and groups have conceived and promoted numerous schemes under the pretext of obtaining pensions for the aged and needy" and that now "several groups of fraudulent promoters are enriching themselves by exploiting the so-called pension plan racket."

IF PLANS announced in St. Louis by leaders of the Long Army are carried out, there is to be another exodus, this time from Germany where the Jews are greatly harassed by the Nazi dictes. Sir Herbert Samuel, eminent British Jew, attending the national council of Jewish federations and welfare funds, said a definite method would be formulated soon to provide for the gradual emigration of at least 100,000 of the German reich's estimated 430,000 Jewish population. The undertaking will be financed by a fund of about $15,000,000 raised by English and American Jews.

WASHINGTON wants to know who first ordered the United States Marine band to walk out at the women's patriotic conference on national defense. Probably it was Assistant Secretary of the Navy Henry L. Roosevelt, but he would say nothing, so a resolution was introduced in congress demanding an investigation.

The difficulties arose out of a speech before the women's conference by Baltsbridge Colby, a Democrat who said unkind things about the New Deal. Thereupon the band walked out, and certain army officers refused to deliver scheduled speeches before the conference. The Republicans did not overlook the opportunities offered by the incident.

NOTEWORTHY among recent deaths is that of George W. Wickersham of New York, who was attorney general of the United States in the Taft administration and for many years one of the country's leading corporation lawyers. He was seventy-seven years old, and died of heart disease in a taxicab.

Mr. Wickersham was chairman of the famous Hoover commission named to investigate prohibition and other law enforcement in 1929. The commission's report opposed repeal, but the document was accompanied by the members' individual statements in which a majority urged repeal or modification of the eighteenth amendment. The net result was confusion.

Much good work, overlooked by the public in the controversy over prohibition, nevertheless was done by the commission. Its exhaustive reports, issued in the fourth year, dealt with all phases of the crime problem and were regarded as important contributions in that field.

DR. HUGH S. CUMMING announced that on February 1 he would retire as surgeon general of the United States public health service, "because of long service and health that isn't good." He has been in the service since 1894 and has had four terms as its head. His administration is credited with completion of the present system; inauguration of prelimingration examinations at American consulates; establishment of a national leprosarium and national narcotic farms, and construction of eight marine hospitals.

It was believed in Washington that President Roosevelt would appoint as the new surgeon general Dr. Thomas H. Parran, Jr., state health commissioner of New York and assistant surgeon general on leave.

A JURY in the United States District court in New York returned verdicts of guilty against acting Capt. William F. Warms and three co-defendants in the conspiracy to defraud resulting from the disastrous fire that swept the Morro Castle off Asbury Park, September 8, 1934, taking a toll of 134 lives.

Reed Warms, those convicted were Ehen Starr Abbott, chief engineer of the burned ship; Henry R. Cabaud, executive vice president of the New York & Cuba Mail Steamship company, operators of the Ward Line, and the New York & Cuba company itself.

FRANCE'S new government, under Albert Sarraut as premier, it is hoped will stand up until the spring elections. If it does, the results will not be happy for Italy and for it will take a much stronger stand in support of the League of Nations than did that of Laval. The new foreign minister is Pierre-Etienne Flandin, considered in the British tendencies; and Joseph Paul-Boncour, no friend of Mussolini, is the minister of state concerned chiefly with league affairs. In other respects there is nothing especially notable about the Sarraut cabinet. Regnier is retained as finance minister, and he is committed to the Laval policy of defending the franc.

Flandin went to London for the funeral of King George, and it is rumored in Paris that he would send Sir John Simon packing on the subject of a loan of three billion francs which the French treasury sorely needs. With Laval in the discard, the British might look on this suggestion with favor.

Albert Sarraut

ADOLF HITLER has just completed three years as the ruler of Germany, and the anniversary was celebrated by the Nazis with triumphant rejoicing. Addressing 26,000 Nazi storm troop veterans, the reichsfuehrer declared:

"Whoever opposes us now does it not as it is during the years of struggle, but restored military independence to Germany."

Hitler spoke 25 minutes, claiming the Nazi movement has brought unity to the part of the nation:

"We seek peace because we love it, but we insist on our honor because we do not live without it."

MAJOR reductions in naval tonnage for the four-power conference is concerned, owing to the unsettled condition of world affairs and the defection of Japan. However the parley may bring agreements for a year's suspension on the sizes of ships and calibers of guns when the Americans, French, and Italians accepted a new British compromise plan as a basis for discussion.

The plan proposes battleships with a maximum of 35,000 tons, the existing limits; 14 inch guns instead of the present 16 inch ones, which would be eliminated; and an entirely separate category for destroyers, placing them in a classification with small cruisers.

SEEN and HEARD around the NATIONAL CAPITAL

By Carter Field

FAMOUS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT

Washington.—It is a common saying in Washington that nobody understands the administration's silver policy except President Roosevelt and Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau. At the present moment the government is paying something like 82 cents an ounce above the market price for all newly mined silver obtained in the United States. This follows the acquisition—by commandeering—of all the silver that came into the country at 50 cents an ounce, which now stands the treasury a net loss in excess of five cents an ounce, not counting interest.

Yet the once famous silver bloc in the senate and house makes no outcry. It seems to have forgotten all about the all inclusive claims of benefit which would follow the enactment of the famous silver purchase law—making it mandatory on the treasury to buy silver on the world market until the world price had reached $1.29 an ounce or until the ratio of silver to gold in the treasury's metallic reserve behind our paper currency had become one to four.

Real silver enthusiasts—those who started with William Jennings Bryan's 1896 theory—are frothing at the mouth. They think Secretary Morgenthau is trying to buy world silver cheap that he defeated the real purpose, and put the price down instead of up.

Meanwhile, of course, there are two elements in which the silver theorists do not give sufficient value. One is that this is an election year. Most of the silver bloc members are Democrats, and many of them are running for re-election. Hence if they should be betrayed by stupidity or worse in the treasury's handling of the situation. They think Morgenthau is the one who